

Case 3655***Mesocrangon* Zarenkov, 1965 (Crustacea, Decapoda, CRANGONIDAE): proposed conservation by suppression of *Mesocrangon* Woodward, 1873**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Article 23.9.3 and Recommendation 23A of the Code, is to conserve the generic name *Mesocrangon* Zarenkov, 1965 for a group of boreal crangonid decapods. The genus name *Mesocrangon* Zarenkov, 1965 is in widespread and current use. This name is threatened by the unused senior primary homonym *Mesocrangon* Woodward, 1873. It is proposed that the name *Mesocrangon* Zarenkov, 1965 be conserved by the suppression of *Mesocrangon* Woodward, 1873.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Crustacea; Decapoda; CRANGONIDAE; *Mesocrangon*; *Mesocrangon intermedia*; *Mesocrangon atra*; crangonid decapods; Recent.

1. Woodward (1873, p. 523) established the genus name *Mesocrangon* for a single new fossil species of Decapoda, *Mesocrangon atra* Woodward, 1873 (p. 523), the type species by monotypy.

2. In a later publication, Woodward (1877, p. 13) stated that the genus name *Mesocrangon* was first published in Woodward (1874, p. 306), which he cited as being published in '1873'. However, Woodward (1874) is a verbatim copy of Woodward (1873) but with 1874 as the publication date. The genus name *Mesocrangon* was thus first published in Woodward (1873).

3. The species name *Mesocrangon atra* Woodward, 1873 has not been used as valid since Woods (1925, p. 4), and its identity and the whereabouts of the type material are unknown (see Glaessner, 1929, p. 253).

4. Zarenkov (1965, p. 1762) established the genus *Mesocrangon*, with *Crangon intermedius* Stimpson, 1860 (p. 25) as the type species by original designation, and including *Crangon munitellus* Walker, 1898 (pp. 275, 276) and *Sclerocrangon volki* Birstein & Vinogradov, 1953 (p. 217, fig. 1).

5. The genus name *Mesocrangon* Woodward, 1873 is a senior homonym of *Mesocrangon* Zarenkov, 1965 (Article 52 of the Code).

6. *Mesocrangon* Zarenkov, 1965 currently includes three extant species (see De Grave et al., 2009, p. 19), *M. intermedia* (Stimpson, 1860), *M. munitella* (Walker, 1898) and *M. volki* (Birstein & Vinogradov, 1953). The genus has been accepted by all recent authors, and features as a valid genus in major caridean works, such as the keys to genera (e.g. Burukovskii, 1983, p. 124; Holthuis, 1993, pp. 284, 291) as well as the recent listing of all valid names in the Caridea (De Grave & Fransen, 2011, p. 457). The genus *Mesocrangon* Zarenkov, 1965 is currently assigned to the family CRANGONIDAE Haworth, 1825 (see De Grave et al., 2009, p. 19).

7. The genus *Mesocrangon* Zarenkov, 1965 has been in widespread and current use since it was first established. In the past 36 years, at least 30 publications by 66 different authors using *Mesocrangon* Zarenkov, 1965 as a valid genus have been published (e.g. Markham, 1978, pp. 113, 120; Butler, 1980, pp. 73, 120, 255; Burukovskii, 1983, p. 124; Dardeau & Heard, 1983, p. 7; Ōta, 1983, p. 230; Raymont et al., 1983, p. 6; Carvacho & Olson, 1984, p. 65; Austin, 1985, p. 636; Haynes, 1985, p. 263; Shinn & Christensen, 1985, p. 432; Hendrickx, 1992, p. 7, 1992, pp. 279, 306; Wicksten & Hendrickx, 1992, p. 4; Holthuis, 1993, pp. 284, 291; Jensen, 1995, p. 39; Llorente-Bousquets et al., 1996, p. 124; Boschi, 2000, p. 94; Cruz et al., 2002, p. 184; Yeh & Ohta, 2002, p. 511; Kim & Hayashi, 2003, pp. 669, 670; Wicksten & Hendrickx, 2003, p. 69; Kim, 2005, p. 242; McLaughlin et al., 2005, p. 225; Kuris et al., 2007, pp. 636, 650; Komai & Komatsu, 2008, pp. 192, 194; De Grave et al., 2009, p. 19; Komai & Komatsu, 2009, p. 523; Macdonald et al., 2010, p. 19; De Grave & Fransen, 2011, p. 457; Komai & Ahyong, 2011, p. 107). This fulfils Article 23.9.1.2 of the Code (Reversal of Precedence).

8. Just four publications using the genus name *Mesocrangon* Woodward, 1873 have been found since 1899. Two publications listed this name in lists of valid fossil taxa (Jukes-Brown & Hill, 1900, p. 474; Woods, 1925, p. 4). The third publication discussed the problematic identity of the name and did not consider it to be valid (Glaessner, 1929, p. 253). The fourth was a nomenclator which listed the name but made no assertion of its taxonomic validity (Neave, 1950, p. 153) (Article 23.9.6). The post-1899 use of *Mesocrangon* Woodward, 1873 as valid in the first two publications means that the conditions of Article 23.9.1.1 of the Code (Reversal of Precedence) are not met and a ruling by the Commission is needed for formal suppression of the name.

9. *Mesocrangon* Zarenkov, 1965 has been repeatedly used as valid since its erection. In contrast, *Mesocrangon* Woodward, 1873 has only been used twice as valid. A strict implementation of the Code would cause considerable confusion in caridean nomenclature, given the widespread usage of *Mesocrangon* Zarenkov, 1965. Although the conditions of Article 23.9.1 for maintaining current usage are not fulfilled, the conservation of the name *Mesocrangon* Zarenkov, 1965 would thus best serve nomenclatural stability.

10. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked to use its plenary power to:

- (1) suppress the name generic *Mesocrangon* Woodward, 1873 for the purposes of both the Principle of Priority and the Principle of Homonymy;
- (2) place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Mesocrangon*

Zarenkov, 1965 (gender: feminine), type species by original designation *Crangon intermedia* Stimpson, 1860;

(3) place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *intermedia* Stimpson, 1860, as published in the binomen *Crangon intermedius* (specific name of the type species of *Mesocrangon* Zarenkov, 1965);

(4) place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the name *Mesocrangon* Woodward, 1873, as suppressed in (1) above.

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